

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of performing an array assay using a set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier, said method comprising:
 - (a) contacting said set of chemical arrays to multiwell plate containing samples to provide closed chambers about each array of said set; and
 - (b) maintaining said set of chemical arrays together with said multiwell plate under conditions sufficient to perform said array assay.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said common carrier is a one-piece substrate having a surface on which the arrays are disposed.
3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising separating said set of chemical arrays into multiple sub-sets of arrays, each carried on separate substrates.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said separation occurs along markings present on said substrate prior to said separating.
5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the substrate is glass and said markings comprise scores on said substrate to facilitate breaking of the glass.
6. The method of Claim 3, wherein said separation occurs subsequent to said array assay.
7. The method of Claim 3, wherein said common carrier comprises a substrate holder and said multiple sub-sets of arrays are mounted at different locations on said holder, wherein said separating comprises removing said separate substrates from said holder.
8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the separate substrates are mounted in a series each adjacent the next.

9. The method of Claim 3, wherein multiple array identifiers are present before separating such that after the separating each separated sub-set of arrays is carried on a separate substrate along with at least one of the array identifiers.
10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising retrieving array layout information for a separated array sub-set using an array identifier carried on a same separate substrate as that separated array sub-set.
11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said maintaining comprises providing a housing about said set of chemical arrays and said multiwell plate.
12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a base and a cover.
13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said common carrier serves as said base or said cover.
14. The method of Claim 3, wherein said set of arrays on said common carrier before said separation consists of $2n$ by $3n$ arrays on the carrier.
15. The method of Claim 14, wherein n is 4, 8 or 16.
16. The method of Claim 14, wherein said common carrier has a length and width no greater than 150 mm by 100 mm.
17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said set of arrays is separated into 4 sub-sets which have the same length and width.
18. The method of Claim 3, further comprising receiving from a remote location the set of chemical arrays held together by the common carrier, along with an indication as to the locations along which separating occurs.
19. A method according to claim 18, wherein:

said common carrier comprises a one-piece substrate having a surface on which the arrays are disposed; and

said indication of the locations along which separating occurs comprises markings on the substrate as received.

20. A method according to claim 18, wherein:

said common carrier comprises a substrate holder;

said sub-sets of arrays are each carried on separate substrates mounted at different locations on said holder; and

said indication of the locations along which separating will occur comprises a visual indication of locations at which the separate substrates may be removed from said holder.

21. The method of Claim 3, further comprising reading said separated sub-sets of the chemical arrays following said separation

22. A method comprising receiving from a remote location a result of reading performed by a method of claim 21.

23. A method comprising forwarding to a remote location a result of reading performed by a method of claim 21.

24. A method of using a set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier in a reaction, said method comprising:

(a) contacting said set of chemical arrays to multiwell plate containing one or more reagents to provide closed chambers about each array of said set; and

(b) maintaining said set of chemical arrays together with said multiwell plate under conditions sufficient to perform said reaction.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said reaction is an amplification reaction.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein said method is a cellular transvection reaction.
27. An apparatus comprising:
(a) a set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier; and
(b) a multiwell plate to be used with said set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier to provide closed chambers about each array of said set.
28. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said common carrier is a one-piece substrate having a surface on which arrays are disposed.
29. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said common carrier comprises a substrate holder and said set comprises multiple sub-sets of arrays each carried on separate substrates and each mounted at different locations on said holder.
30. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said common carrier comprises an indication of locations along which said carrier should be separated so as to separate said set of chemical arrays into multiple sub-sets each with one or more arrays.
31. The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising a housing for maintaining said set of chemical arrays and said plate of wells together in an operative configuration to provide closed chambers about each array.
32. The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein said housing comprises a base and a cover.
33. The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein said common carrier serves as said base or said cover.
34. A method of using a set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier with one or more arrays of the set having been previously exposed to a sample, comprising separating the set of chemical arrays into multiple sub-sets each with one or more arrays, wherein said separation occurs along markings present on the substrate prior to said

separating, wherein said substrate is glass and said markings comprise scores on said substrate to facilitate breaking of said glass.

35. A method of using a set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier with one or more arrays of the set having been previously exposed to a sample, comprising:
receiving from a remote location the set of chemical arrays held together by the common carrier, along with an indication as to the locations along which separating occurs; and

separating the set of chemical arrays into multiple sub-sets each with one or more arrays.

36. A kit comprising:

(a) a set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier; and
(b) a multiwell plate to be used with said set of chemical arrays held together by a common carrier to provide closed chambers about each array of said set.

37. The kit of Claim 36, further comprising a housing for maintaining said set of chemical arrays and said multiwell plate together in an operative configuration to provide closed chambers about each array.

38. The kit of Claim 36, wherein said housing comprises a base and a cover.

39. The kit of Claim 36, wherein at least one well of said multiwell plate comprises at least one reagent for use in a chemical reaction.